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## OUR OMNIBUS.

## PIPER PAN.

Señor Lago is hard at work preparing for his Italian Opera season at the Shaftesbury Theatre. The season will last six weeks; commencing, as at present arranged, on Monday, October 19th, but I hope, and have good grounds for expecting, that Saturday, October 17th, may be the opening night. Señor Lago is naturally anxious to secure notices in the Press and other weekly papers without waiting a week for them.

The orchestra, selected from that of the Royal Italian Opera, will include forty-five of our best instrumentalists, and, I am glad to announce, will be led by Mr. Carrodus. The chorus will be of first-rate quality, and the season will open with the first performance in England of Mascagni's renowned opera, in one long act, "Cavalleria Rusticana," which has been greeted so enthusiastically at La Scala (Milan), and other Italian opera houses, also in Germany, Spain, Portugal, Russia, &c.

The score of "Cavalleria Rusticana" is before me, and I have little doubt that it will prove as attractive in London as it has been elsewhere. It is full of delightful melodies, and the "Siciliana" with which it opens is a musical gem. The choral music is varied and masterly, and "Rustic Chivalry" cannot fail to please. It will be performed thrice weekly.

Mr. Basil Tree, worthy successor of Mr. Ambrose Austin at St. James's Hall, has sent me his latest list of forthcoming concerts for the season. It is a list of some thirty, by musicians and amateurs, who will find in it the dates of the forthcoming concerts of the Philharmonic Society, the Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts, London Symphony Concerts, London Ballad Concerts, Royal Choral Society Concerts, Sarasate Concerts, and Richter Concerts.

Mr. Tree's list also includes the concerts of the Bach Choir, Sir Charles Hallé, the Westminster Orchestral Society, the Patti Concert, and those of Mr. Ambrose Austin and Mr. George Grossmith. With this carefully prepared list, music-lovers can see at a glance when and where the most attractive concerts will be given. Mr. Tree charges nothing for his list, and will forward it to any applicant who sends him a stamped and directed envelope.

The People's Concert Society's fifth annual season of Sunday Popular Concerts will open next month at South-place Institute, Finsbury, and concerts will be given on every Sunday evening until the middle of March. These excellent concerts—at which many distinguished artists give gratuitously—are admirably managed, and I hope that the ensuing season may prove as successful as that of last year.

My metropolitan readers should bear in mind that on Saturday, October 16th, the Crystal Palace concert season will commence. The prospectus of the ten concerts to be given before Christmas has been forwarded to me, and is full of attractions. Several additions will be made to the Crystal Palace repertory, and the list of leading artists includes the names of many public favourites.

Mlle. Nikita is to appear at the Grand Opera, Paris, next spring, in "Faust" and "Roméo et Juliette," and is studying the parts of Marguerite and Juliette with the composer. On the 2nd of October, at Wolverhampton, she will begin a provincial tour, organised by Mr. Vert.

Mr. Barton McGuckin last week, with the aid of Mlle. Zélie de Lussan and other able artists, gave a successful concert at Armagh, in aid of the Armagh Philharmonic Society. The popular tenor was presented by his friends and admirers with a clock, which is an exact model of the front of Westminster Abbey (including the clock tower), and is 35in. high. I presume that the donors did not wish to suggest that Mr. McGuckin occasionally keeps bad time? Perish the thought!

One night, during the recent festival at Hereford, a terrible rumour circulated that Mr. Edward Lloyd, Mr. Sany, and Mr. Sany, who had been at the hotel, had quarrelled and were "pitching into each other." These distinguished artists have often joined in the execution of duets, but a dual performance with their fists was an interesting novelty. It turned out that one of the hotel servants had taken too many doses of "arduous spirits," and was "pitching into" his colleagues, who promptly pitched him into the street, and Hereford was itself again.

Olla Podrida.—I am glad to say that Sir Arthur Sullivan's health is completely restored.—Mr. Horace Sedger has purchased the sole rights of performing the forthcoming Gilbert-Cellier opera in the English provinces and America.—The musical "play without words," "L'Enfant Prodigue," continues to draw such crowds to the Prince of Wales Theatre that the Gilbert-Cellier opera is not likely to be produced for months to come.—"La Cigale" still attracts crowds to the Lyric Theatre.—The London rehearsals for the Birmingham Festival will commence to-morrow, under the direction of Herr Richter.—At the Leeds Festival, next year, a new cantata, composed by Mr. F. H. Cowen, will be produced.—The eminent violinist, Ernest de Munck, has been appointed professor of the violoncello at the Guildhall School of Music.

## BUCKLAND, JUNIOR.

So the great sea-serpent has turned up again. This time off the coast of New Zealand, and he has been seen twice. He is estimated to be 100ft. long, and to travel through the water with about 30ft. above the surface. At all events, those who report his appearance have a genuine belief that it was a huge serpent they saw, and not merely a floating log, as has been suggested in the colony. He is reported to look something like a conger eel, and to have two large flippers or fins. Those who tell the story are experienced sailors, and declare that it positively was a living creature. There is the possibility, of course, that such monsters do exist, and I would be loath to say that their existence may not some day be proved. So many travellers' tales have been said that I have laughed down and then proved up to the hilt. The great objection to it is this: how is it that no bones of great dead sea-serpents have been washed ashore? This can only be met by saying that sea-serpents are very scarce, that they live and die in very deep water, and that it is so chances that none of their bones have been discovered. The question can never be settled till some one shoots one of them. Suggestion for the Admiralty.—Employ an armed cruiser to prow around Australian waters till it finds and kills the great sea-serpent.

"A Crickwood Correspondent" has sent me two insects which he discovered fighting on the Edgware-road just a mile from the Welsh Harp. One of them was a long-bodied beetle, generally known as the "devil's coach-horse"; the other was a hairy caterpillar. They were found in the centre of the highway fighting, and battled there for twenty minutes. Then they got into the grass on the footpath, and on being again placed out in the road continued their struggle until my correspondent had to leave.

taking the combatants with him. By the time I received them the caterpillar had succumbed to his injuries, but as the beetle was well and hearty, I let him out in the garden, where there are enough caterpillars at present to feed a thousand "devil's coach-horses." The caterpillar's back was regularly bitten to pieces, and large tufts of his hair had been pulled out. These beetles are very ferocious beasts. It is said that they are sometimes capable of inflicting rather a nasty little wound on human beings. Their jaws are very powerful, and their feeding is not always quite of the cleanest, so I can well believe this statement. If such a fight were magnified till both the combatants appeared the size of crocodiles, what a desperate affair it would seem!

Two white-feathered sparrows are noticed this week by correspondents. "J. A. S." has seen the one which is white on the top of the head, wings, and tail. The other, Mr. J. Steele, informs me, is to be seen any day at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Mrs. H. Vincent sends an amusing account of an accident which befell her white kitten. The other day a fearful sound was heard proceeding from the drawing-room. It seemed as if someone was rending stiff paper, and at the same time thumping and rushing about, rushing about like a mad thing under the tables, sofas, and other furniture. The truth soon appeared. Pussy had been on the table and had seated herself upon some fly-papers, which, being sticky, remained fixed on her when she attempted to move, and nearly frightened her out of her wits. They had to be pulled off by main force, so hard did they stick, and it was not till after this had been done that the kitten's face showed a good laugh at the kitten's expense.

"Hazon" kindly gives me a useful hint for keeping my chameleon. It will be useful also to any of my readers who possess one. The chameleon is a creature that they drink the dew from the leaves by sucking or licking them; in confinement, therefore, they must be provided with artificial dew; that is, the leaves in their case must be well sprinkled with water every day. If this be not done the chameleon, who declines to lap water from a saucer like a dog or cat, will perish sooner or later for the want of it.

Every night when my chameleon goes to sleep he becomes a dirty white or pale yellow colour. In the daytime he varies from quite pale to a regular black. Sometimes he is tinged all over with light green. There are certain spots on his flanks which vary, sometimes independently of the other colour, in their native bushes, chameleons vary more; the green is then much more vivid, and I believe that they sometimes turn into a deep blue colour. But they are apt to disappoint the Englishman who has heard wonderful stories about their change of hue. To my mind the change of colouring is not so extraordinary, as some of the other changes which they are capable of making, or modify their hue, though, certainly, to a less extent.

"J. A. S." says that he knows of two instances in which spiders have killed toads by biting. One occurred about fifty-two years ago in Norfolk; the other in 1878 at Horseheath, Cambridgeshire.

"Nimrod," about six months ago, received a young wild buck rabbit. Recently he placed it with a Dutch doe, and last Saturday the doe gave birth to five young rabbits all like the buck. It is not usual for wild rabbits to breed in captivity, but I have frequently heard of their doing so.

Mr. W. Pearson has a female monkey from Java which apparently is suffering from consumption. It is wasting away, its bones are painfully visible, and its appetite has almost gone. It drinks a little warm milk. Its breathing is heavy, and it is constantly coughing. I fear there is nothing to be done to save the poor little beast. Javanese monkeys must of necessity suffer a great deal from their climate, seeing what a fearful hot place Java is. If it were my monkey, however, I would try to save it by a vigorous administration of cod-liver oil. Give it a good dose of this every day with milk, and at night nourishing it with some good milk. Put on a thick padded coat and keep it, if possible, in a cage in the kitchen or somewhere where there is constantly a fire. Of course it must never be in a draught or out of doors. In this way, you may be able to pull it through, although it will probably be difficult. You had better also get some book on the monkey makers which will tell you fuller particulars; I believe that such are published.

## THE ACTOR.

I believe it is no secret that Mr. Irving would have been glad if his two sons had not taken to the stage. He gave each a good education, with opportunities of succeeding in the other department of life. In any profession they would have been welcomed and helped onward; and as, in the end, they have decided for the stage, we must assume that heredity was too strong for them, and that they have become players because they couldn't help it.

Of the two young gentlemen, Mr. Lawrence Irving is the wiser. He has joined Mr. Benson's travelling company, and is playing "The Merchant of Venice" at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Mr. H. Irving, "Harry," as his friends call him—has succumbed to the temptation to play a leading rôle in Robertson's comedy in a leading London theatre. He did excellently at Oxford in the University theatricals, but he would have done well to have gone in for the rugged life of the professional actor, and there is really no royal road to success in acting any more than there is in any other vocation.

However, we all wish young Mr. Irving well, and, personally, I think him capable of good things. He seems to have much of his father's individuality, and that, of course, is thrown away upon a milk-and-water artificial part like that of Lord Beauchamp. The "hero" of "School" is little more than a barber's block, and young Mr. Irving must find the rôle very difficult to play. He was evidently much more in his element when playing in Shakespeare at Oxford.

Many as have been the triumphs of Mr. Irving and Miss Terry at the Lyceum, I don't think I ever heard in that theatre such uproarious applause as saluted Miss Ada Khan on the first night of the production of "The Last Word." The house fairly rang with the cheers extorted by her superb performance in the second act. Miss Terry is the delight of all who behold her, but she has never raised, within the walls of the Lyceum, such wild enthusiasm as greeted Miss Khan on the occasion I refer to.

This seeming singularity is quite easily explained. The ordinary Lyceum audience does not applaud loudly. Perhaps it thinks enthusiasm contrary to good manners. The audience which got so excited over Miss Khan was not the ordinary Lyceum "crowd." That Miss Terry can extort the loudest and heartiest applause outside of the Lyceum was clearly demonstrated at the Grand, Islington, the other evening, when

she was called out no fewer than eight times at the fall of the curtain on "The Old Maid." It is a pity the average Lyceum audience is so coldly proper. The actors, I am sure, would be grateful for a little more display of pleasure and satisfaction.

Among those present at the second performance of "The Last Word" were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wyndham and Miss and Mrs. Moore. The first and last of this trio being their provincial tour on Monday, compelled by the success of "Miss Decima" to seek fresh woods and pastures new. "David Garrick" will be the principal feature of the tour, as on former occasions, and quite rightly too. Inimitable as Mr. Wyndham is in light comedy rôles, there can be no question that his Garrick is an admiration and a delightful performance—a much more admirable and delightful one than that of Sothorn himself.

I hear that, when "A Fantomime Rehearsal" moves from the Shaftesbury to make way for Signor Lago, it will, in all probability, settle down at Toole's. It will be all the better for being witnessed in the smaller theatre. For so large a theatre as the Shaftesbury it is not well suited. I am, however, surprised that the management has consented to lend Mr. Woodson Grossmith to Mr. Jones for his Avenue season. I do not see how Mr. Grossmith's place in "A Fantomime Rehearsal" can possibly be filled. "None but himself can be his parallel."

Was there ever an actress so much in request as Miss Fanny Brough? No sooner does she "create" a part and make a success in it, than she is whisked off to another theatre, to repeat the process. In a week or two she will go from Drury Lane to Terry's, and Miss Kate James will go from the Savoy to Old Drury to take her place. The fact is, very characteristic of the actress, who possesses the gift, is that she is continually emigrating from one spot to the other. How different from the old days, when actors stayed long at one theatre and came to be identified with it! I confess I prefer the old fashion to the new. London theatrical life is considerably too kaleidoscopic in its variations for the taste of yours truly.

## OLD IZAAK.

Thames Fishing keeps fairly good. John Keene, jun., who has just been honoured with a river keeper's warrant in connection with the A.R.S., has been out at Staines and in two of his takes all the fish were returned to the river again. These were Mr. Waterer's, of seven barbel, six dozen roach and dace, two fine perch (the largest 1lb. 10s.), and Mr. Henderson's, of eight dozen roach and dace, and five barbel. A 9lb. barbel has been taken at Penton Hook, and a 1lb. perch at Chertsey. As Staines and other places, barbel are apparently of feed. The Strouds have taken eighteen jack, the largest 10lb., and at Kingston, John Johnson's record for the week is fifteen dozen roach and dace, six jack, five barbel, and seven chub.

The T.A.P.S. obtained a conviction in the Surbiton case, a fine of twenty shillings being inflicted. The examination of takes from punts and bank continues. In addition to the fifty-three punts (the number intended to have been given last week) thirty-one punts, and a considerable number of bank anglers, between Hampton and Staines, have since been visited, and not one unsizeable fish was found.

There is nothing of consequence to report from the Lea, and a flood is wanted to put things in order. In most places I hear the water is bright and weedy, and but few good fish have come to bank. At Paborough good takes are recorded, and the jack are coming on. Mr. Palmer, of the Anchor and Hope, took a 10-pounder from the water reed by the Central Association on Saturday last, and several others of about 5lb. each. Since then I hear of further catches, and one of 10lb. has been weighed in at the Swan. I do not wonder at this water being so largely patronised by London Sunday anglers, and if those of our piscatorial friends who have time to spare were to fish it on week days, they could not only have an exceptionally quiet outing, but excellent sport. Mr. Eldridge's competition takes place at Amberg on Sunday next, October 4th, and a very large number of anglers is anticipated.

Fifty-three clubs were represented at the dinner meeting of the Anglers' Association on Monday last, when Mr. W. E. Bockett, vice-president, occupied the chair. Mr. Gurney exhibited a poster in reference to night fishing, a practice prohibited in all water controlled by the association. The Park Angling Society, Park Hotel, Park, Tottenham, watered, and an application for a similar privilege for the Regent's Park, which is a branch of the South Hams, referred to the general committee, on the ground that the society was yet in an embryo condition. Additional honorary bailiffs were appointed for the Lea and Stort, and application was arranged to be made to the G.W.R. asking them to grant anglers' tickets to Staines and Whitebrook, from Paddington and Westbourne Park.

Nuptial knots and marriage lines were amusingly brought under notice, for a Richmond gentleman, who inadvertently applied for a Great Eastern Angler's ticket, with an out-of-date privilege card, wrote explaining, adding that the company might as well ask for a marriage licence as tackle him about an obvious mistake. Under the circumstances, the obliging officials of Liverpool-street will doubtless do without the proffered document, and the association ticket probably be so printed hereafter that none can question the period for which it is available any more than that of a certificate of marriage.

The Seymour Brothers hold a smoking concert on Monday next, 28th inst., at the Office House Tavern, Chilton-street, N.W., for the benefit of their active and esteemed secretary, Mr. S. Cane. If the room is as well filled as the occasion demands, it will be full indeed.

"Old Isak" is to preside at the reading of Mr. Harry Dunn's paper on "Barbel Fishing" before the Cauton Anglers at the Coffee-pot Tavern, Warwick-lane, E.C., on Monday evening, the 28th inst., at 8.30 p.m., when brother anglers are welcome to attend.

I am glad to hear that the two persons against whom proceedings are pending for taking undersized fish at Chertsey, are not found trespassing in the neighbourhood, and are wholly unknown to the Bermondsey Brothers, a club to which they represented themselves to belong.

The Silver Trouts had a beautiful show of roach and rudd on Tuesday evening, Mr. Phillips being the successful angler. His take included six roach, the largest of which weighed 2lb., and the smallest 1lb. 7oz. The society fish a match at Goring-to-day (Sunday).

The competitions of the week have not been very encouraging, and if we have fewer of them (one or two coming events excepted), no harm will be done. The Midway match at Totham was a dull affair, the live pig and 10s. falling to Mr. F. Martin (Anchor and Hope) with half a dozen dace weighing 2lb. 2oz. in all. There were forty competitors. The contest of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union at Burnt Hill, attracted 100 com-

petitors, but was not well managed, and the show of fish exceedingly poor, 140s. taking the first prize. Mr. Davis, who claims fishing rights there, drew the water off before the anglers arrived, and the competitors had in consequence to migrate to another part of the Stort, near a spot where the destructive effects of a large load of gas lime, which sank there some time since, are probably yet felt.

Some of our London anglers have recently been disappointed on finding that the fishing at Chertsey Abbey meads is not open except to members of the local angling association. There seems no doubt that under the old ecclesiastical charter this is strictly a proprietary water, and although strongly opposed myself to angling societies renting any water which the public have previously freely fished, I think there are not a few anglers in this instance, which may to some extent justify the Chertsey people. Mr. Armstrong, who is so active in the locality, does, and has done, much for the preservation of sport in the river, of which the London anglers certainly get the benefit.

## GENERAL CHATTER.

To my way of thinking, there is no better company than "bus driver, if of the right sort." These Jehus have, as a rule, an inexhaustible stock of anecdotes bearing upon human life and its foibles, which they relate with much dry humour to appreciative listeners. The other night, when travelling westward along the Bayswater-road, I was kept in a roar of laughter the whole way by one of these jolly whippersnappers. From the best story I can remember, I will tell you the gist of it. He put her down at a certain street. On reaching it, he announced that she had arrived at her destination, but her nerves happened to be disorganised and she could not screw up her courage to essay the descent. Thereupon the conductor, somewhat irritated by the delay, observed sarcastically, "You are in a hurry, half an hour or so don't matter." "Oh, thank you, Mr. Conductor," she replied; "I am ever so much obliged to you for telling me that." And so she sat down again, expecting the "bus to halt until her nervous flutter had passed away.

Another anecdote was illustrative of the "gentle" aspirations which characterise even the poorest Jewesses. On week days, when they have occasion to visit Petticoat-lane on business—and what poor Jewess does not occasionally drop in at that famous haunt—they call by its ancient name without the slightest diffidence. "Drop me at Petticoat-lane old chap," is the order. But when they have their Sunday finery on, it is "If you please, Mr. Coachman, I should like to be put down at Middlesex-street."

Yet another yarn dwelt upon the embarrassing position of good-looking conductors with a softer sex. I have seen something of that sort myself when getting out at Tottenham Court-road in the morning. There is always a rush of feminines at that point to secure seats, and on one occasion I saw no less than four tightly grasping the conductor, some round the neck, others by the arms, one by the waist, and so on. They were all endeavouring to get free. They fairly pulled him off the foot-board into the street, and kept him there until the "bus started."

A crusty old bachelor friend of mine, whom I know to be a confirmed misogynist, greatly surprised me the other evening by pronouncing in favour of allowing women to sit in the House of Commons. "They love idle talk, you see," he explained, "and I know no place where the propensity could be better gratified with such little injury to society." I told him that he ought to feel ashamed of himself for expressing such detestable sentiments.

Dr. Mortimer Granville will be answerable, I fear, for a considerable development of drinking. His theory that stimulants are an essential part of human dietary may be true, but what a glorious excuse it affords to young men of the period to take another little nip after tea! There is a rumour that the leading restaurateur proposes to erect a statue to their unintentional benefactor. A very clever man is the worthy doctor, and as courageous as smart. There is no one like him for running amuck among ancient formulae and uprooting their right and left.

It is certainly very difficult to put fast faith in the infallibility of medical science, when one remembers how prodigiously it blundered in the past. When I was a lad, that noxious drug, calomel, was habitually dispensed wholesale to children, while my skin still shows the marks of the bleedings, cuppings, and leechings to which I was subjected for one ailment or another. I well remember, too, how particular doctors used to be about excluding fresh air from sick rooms. Truly was it a case of "the survival of the fittest"; only the very strong could survive such desperate treatment. But when reformers like Dr. Granville spoke out their minds, they were called "quacks" and other opprobrious names.

The death of ex-Dictator Balmaceda by his own hand removes from the world a man whom it could well spare. Indeed, it would be no bad thing if a good many other despots and would-be despots committed felo de se. This does not apply exclusively to kings and presidents. It would not be difficult to name some work-class agitators who are evidently aspiring, as Balmaceda did, to make themselves dictators for their own selfish objects. Of such I say that it would be a merciful riddance to society were they to commit suicide.

A letter which appears in another column will, I hope, direct police attention to the necessity of freeing the bridges from the loathsome jokers who congregate there. These fellows, who are a disgrace to the neighbourhood, should be removed from the bridges on almost unchecked; there can be few who have not had experience of it at one time or another. If nothing else would serve, I would suggest that every bridge should have a strong wire netting placed above its balustrades on both sides. That would, at all events, prevent the miscreants from taking correct aim, while at the same time preventing would-be suicides from chucking themselves in the river.

What a number of young people there are who conceive that, if they were only given a chance, they would be able to do something for the world would be at their feet in a moment. I know a dame, well born, well educated, and well endowed with good looks, who labours so strongly under this delusion that she has just broken with a most eligible suitor for venturing to doubt her histrionic talent. It appears that she gave him a private performance of her own dramatic efforts, and that he could not restrain his mirth, an unpardonable offence in her eyes. And now she has taken up with a poverty-stricken humbug who pretends to see in her all the attributes of a Siddons.

## MADAME.

Astrachan in black and colours is re-appearing as a trimming for winter gowns; fur and feathers will also be largely used for trimming. Passementerie and fancy gimps in all manner of shades will be much employed, and we are to have a repetition, with many variations, of the beading, braiding, and embroidery that figured so largely on our gowns, jackets, and caps last year. For the moment hand embroidery with cord, in

place of braid, takes the lead. In some cases the entire dress is covered over with this cording, in others it is used as a bordering round the bottom of the skirt, and is carried out on the bodice, round the basques, and down the front, and on the neck, band, and wrists. With this latter style we are becoming quite familiar, and a very neat and pretty finish it gives to a costume.

The all-over cord trimming is the very newest thing in hand embroidery, and some of the new dresses decorated in this way are of a style in the extreme; but the point I wish to bring forward for the benefit of my readers is the scope this new style gives for redecorating gowns that have already done good service for their wearers. Last week I told you how to renovate the appearance of a somewhat faded gown by placing stripes of lace all over it. Now you shall learn what was done with a very old and faded gown. The lady had for her best frock last winter a smooth-faced tan-coloured cloth, very plainly made, with tight fitting bodice and short rounded basques. She fortunately had by her enough of the cloth to make the correct long basques which were easily added, and gave style to the bodice. Having well brushed the garment she proceeded to decorate it all over with the new fashionable stripes, using for the purpose a fine black silk cord. Beginning at the top of the bodice she carefully stitched on the embroidery, and tracing down the front and over rounded loops, she traced, with a little pattern, a great deal of attention, keeping to keep the whole straight and symmetrical you arrange the loops as you go along down each stripe. The sleeves were embroidered in the same way from shoulders to wrists, and the skirt was treated in exactly the same way, being completely covered with stripes, and the whole garment was a most effective gown, and my friend told me it was most pleasant and very easily done.

Now for another example of hand work also done at home. I saw it on a gown worn by a pretty hostess at an afternoon gathering. The material was a fine black woollen stuff, and the tight-fitting bodice had a deep yoke banded all over with jet and gold beads in an artistic pattern, the edge of the yoke being trimmed with a ruching of gold-coloured cord. The sleeves, high-collared and very full, were banded with the same pattern in the jet and gold beads, frills of the lace went round the wrists, and the basques were trimmed with a long fringe of alternate strings of jet and gold beads. The skirt rested some inches on the ground behind, and had a fringe round the bottom to correspond with the basques. It was a most elegant and becoming dress, and my hostess told me she had never done a more fascinating bit of fancy work than the beading and fringe for that gown.

There seems little doubt that plain skirts will be among the favourite styles this winter for the thicker materials, such as cloth and heavy greases. A great deal of attention among fashionable modistes is being given to the correct cutting of these skirts. Quite the newest thing is to have them cut entirely on the cross, with three seams down the centre of the front. This innovation may sound startling, but when well carried out it has a most satisfactory effect and gives a good set to the skirt; it seems as if cutting with either narrow, wide, silver cord, or jet passementerie. If the go is of wood or chevrot cloth a double row of machine stitching is more suitable than trimming, and will answer the purpose of outlining the seams equally well.

That undeniably useful, but, as a rule, ugly garment, the ulster, has made a long stride towards improvement in appearance this year. The new build is tight-fitting to the figure with double-breasted fronts; it fastens all the way down with small buttons. A cape of the same material, shaped to the shoulders and reaching to the knees is made to wear over this, while a large hood lined with silk is attached to the back. The cape and ulster are worn separately, or together, the garment doubly useful. A trend in a small brown check with a dash of silk through it and the hood lined with red silk makes up well in this style.

During the summer, fashion decreed that we were to wear coloured straw hats and bonnets to match our gowns. Now a sudden turn of the wheel has brought us back to the more useful and becoming black straw for our head gear. Bonnets and hats are on the whole larger. Some of the newest shapes in hats are very large and quite flat with a little roll at the sides, and a wide brim, trimmed outside with a large bow of velvet and a bunch of autumn berries.

## MR. WHEELER.

Excluding the excursion from Penzance to the Land's End, the total distance covered by Boss and his companions was just over 600 miles, and as they were twenty days on the road, this averages at the rate of fifty miles per diem throughout. Their total expenses, including repairs, and a few presents for the folks at home, amounted to £28 5s., being £7 1s. for each, or not quite 9s. per head per diem. It might have been done either cheaper or dearer, but this scale of expenditure may be accepted as about the mark when remounting a horse and nothing more is a sine qua non. They had good rations, pleasant quarters, clean bed-rooms and, as a rule, every attention and civility. What more could pleasure-seeking cyclists require, or with what less could they be satisfied?

Next, as to the conduct of the three machines. "Cocky" "Cynosure" proved itself good at all points—a smooth goer, fast on the flat, grand at hill climbing, and a really wonderful coaster. The three young Belgians with whom the party foregathered between Taunton and Exeter, were lost in admiration at its manifold excellences, pronouncing it the best three-wheeler they had ever seen. It returned to London without a single smash of any sort, although Boss had ridden it somewhat recklessly on purpose to test its strength. The Hates cushion tyres passed through the ordeal equally well. Not to speak of the trying Wiltshire hills, thrice did big thorns go straight into the rubber right up to the hilt. But when withdrawn, the aperture instantly closed up and became impenetrable. The Sphinx carrier also proved a great comfort, especially when beating against head winds, while the patent bell, with its loud musical chime, operated most successfully in clearing the road.

The Cyclo-dome safely ridden by Banks came out of the trial with equal credit, proving itself a really strong well-built machine, able to drive, fairly fast, and quite comfortable. It had been put into thorough order by Cumber just before the start, having then been previously ridden some thousands of miles without any serious repairs being needed. And what is to be said for the Eudge tandem? Well, it was a right good machine for its time, but hard work and hard usage had undermined its originally robust constitution. Peace be to its ashes! May it speedily rise from them like the fire-eating phoenix.

Were any lessons of practical value derived from the tour? Several, I imagine, when you have made out a list of the odds and ends you intend to take, don't wait until the last moment to pack them up, or some will

certainly be forgotten. Thus, by omitting to take a little bottle of quinine and a brandy flask, the party were caused terrible anxiety when young Jack collapsed. Similarly, there being no diachylon plaster immediately available when Boss cut his knees, the lacerations were much irritated and inflamed by friction against the woollen knickers.

When you are making up your party, bear in mind that the pace on tour will be that of the slowest machine in company. Endeavour, therefore, to have all the members so mounted that their speed may be pretty equal. The tandem must have delayed Boss and Banks fully two hours a day.

Before starting, have your mount thoroughly overhauled by a good repairer and see that all worn out parts are made good. It was through the omission of this precaution that the decayed condition of the tandem tyre escaped observation, with the result of constant trouble and perplexity. The older the machine the more close should the inspection be; if the leader of the party be wise, he will have each and every mount paraded before him some days previous to the start. For, be it remembered, every breakdown involves, not merely the delay of the rider immediately affected, but that of the whole party.

It is not necessary to attach absolute credit to every wheelerman who professes to be on the eve of starting for the Land's End. Some show or other, very few turn up there, and of those few the majority take rail from Exeter to Launceston or Truro. The quartette did not chance upon a single cyclist on that part of the journey, either going or returning. Subsequently the good old ordinary was much in evidence, but pneumatic wheels were not.

Be sure, when in doubt about the road, to ask for the next place of importance on the route you wish to travel, and not for your ultimate destination. A trustworthy countryman, whom your well-trimmed tourist found the use of this guidance between Amesbury and Andover, where all the finger-posts had been temporarily deprived of their pointers. Never make cocksure, as young riders are wont to do, that this or that turning must be the right one. If no house be near, wait patiently until some native comes by, or send out scouts along both flanks to find out the right road. It is far more profitable to lose a little time in this way than to pursue the wrong road, as the party did after leaving Hindon.

Whatever accidents happen put the best complexion on matters, and keep pugging away, no matter how slowly. There were times during the return journey from Penzance when Boss and his companions, hard driven for time as they were, almost despaired of reaching London on wheels. But they resolved to stick to the road as long as they could make any progress at all, and this tenacity of purpose carried them home in their saddles.

A second suit is indispensable for comfort and warmth. As soon as you get in, throw off your riding clothes, have a warm bath if you can get it, but if not, a hard rub down all over will serve almost equally well, and don the other suit. The riding garments, especially the coat, cannot be too tight, but it is advisable to have the change of a thicker and warmer sort, to guard against the cold. All riders are liable when the temperature of their bodies diminishes. Be sure that both suits are wholly made of woollen materials; not a particle of cotton should have been placed in them.

Take advantage of halts on the way to turn up the plated parts if halts are wanting before starting. An occasional pull on the handle of the pedals, and a few strokes of the stiffest oil of them. When flies are very troublesome to the eyes spectacles of plain glass, slightly tinted, will be found of great comfort. Always remember that while civility begets, as a rule, civility, peremptoriness of tone usually causes retaliation in rudeness. Go easily through with a cock, or if instant action is required, about cocks and hens are pretty sure to put themselves in the way of being massacred.

It should also be an axiom of the road to strictly observe its courtesies at all times and under all circumstances. Thanks to the observance of this rule, the party had not a single unpleasant incident throughout the tour. Finally, dearly beloved, help one another in all things, and invariably subordinate self to the greatest happiness of the greatest number.

## ALLEGED OUTRAGE IN THE WEST END.

John Hanafin, 13, described as a labourer, living in Fitzroy-place, Euston-road, was charged at the Marlborough-street Police Court, with stealing a purse containing 2s. 10d., belonging to Frances Evans, a charwoman, living at 31, St. Pancras. The prosecutrix said that while she was walking along Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, at a quarter to 1 o'clock that morning, the prisoner accosted her. She kept walking on, but he followed her, caught hold of her, and dragged her down a mew. He then asked her if she could give him a penny, and she told him that she had no money. He began to handle her very roughly and tried to find her dress pocket. She became very frightened. He told her that if she did not give him what he had, he would put something through her. At the same time he put his hand into her pocket as if to pull out a knife. She tried to scream, but he put his hand over her mouth and thrusting his fist into her face. Eventually he managed to get her purse out of her pocket. He then ran away saying, "If you dare to follow me I will do for you." She followed, and saw him conceal himself behind one of the pillars of the old theatre, in Tottenham-street. She met a constable, and then the prisoner was taken into custody. Before his arrest the accused took the money out of the purse and threw the latter away. P.C. Walker, 471 D, said that while walking along Tottenham-street, off duty, the prosecutrix complained to him of being robbed. He arrested Hanafin. The missing purse was found in the street.—In defence, the prisoner said that the woman accosted him first, and wanted to get money from him. He never robbed her.—The prosecutrix denied that she first spoke to the man.—Mr. Rose committed the prisoner to trial.

In connection with the late robbery from the municipal buildings at Leeds, a young architect named Fred Worsnip, who has been in the habit of visiting the office, has been arrested on suspicion of having been a pawnbroker relating to engineering and architectural instruments, supposed to have been stolen.

THIRTEEN OF OUR MEN TOLD. Ask any of the recent breakers of all Old Curriers and Bicycle Agents; bottles in 1s. 6d. and 2s. 6d. cartons paid.—3d. St. James's St. Old Kent-road, E.C.—(ADVT.)

"CYCLODOME" is the latest and best of the recent breakers of all Old Curriers and Bicycle Agents; bottles in 1s. 6d



LETTERS OF CHARLES DICKENS.

over of the *Illustrated* letters pronounced him proper for October (certain references to his readings). "I have," he says, "to be sure, exceedingly well since we have been"—with this remarkable (and pleasant) addendum, that wherever I read twice the *Illustrated* is invariably on the second occasion. "I don't quite understand beforehand what it is, I think, and expect a man to be coming down in some corner drowning away to a mild gasp." "I have a large room at my disposal, and the people are perfectly taken of their legs by 'The Times'—started—looked at each other—started again—looked at me—and then burst into a storm of applause. I think the best audiences I have yet had were at Exeter and Plymouth—at Exeter, the best I have ever seen—at Plymouth I read before an audience of some 400—better than any audience for the Donkey could not be. And the Boots night was a shout all through. I cannot say that I shall be heartily glad when it is over, and that I miss the thoughtfulness my quiet room and desk. But perhaps it is best for me not to have it just now, and to rest and toss my stomach away—or as much of it as will ever come out of him for a while in the most unattractive manner. It is a letter I have written three years later he says:—"Next night was Nickleby and the Trial. I had had good walk in the bright air, and time to reason myself up a bit. There was

I think I must report of Nickleby that he has a certain fantastic and hearty enjoyment of all the readings. The people were still quite ridiculous to see when Squeers and the boys' letters. And I am inclined to suspect that the impression of protection and hope derived from Nickleby's going away will be much lessened by the fact that the story is discovered by chance—that an audience most likely to be left with." One of the letters from Charles Dickens to Wilkie Collins now being published (for the first time) in *Harper's Magazine*, gives an account of a dinner at Paris with some transatlantic friends, and the subject of the dinner was Nickleby. Yesterday, he writes, I dined at the kokseller's with the body of translators engaged on my new edition—one of them a young and pretty. (I hope, by the by, arising from the questions which they asked of me and which I asked them, that it will be a very profitable meeting.) The other was a tremendously amiable old savant, who occasionally expressed himself in a foreign tongue, which I supposed to be Russian (I thought he had something to do with the congress of the same name, but which my host told me, when I came away, was English). We wallowed in the most mortal hours incessant and boisterous conversation, which was not without a dash of blashy if it hadn't been too sticky. Salmon appeared late in the evening, and unforeseen creatures of the lobster species strayed in after the pudding. It was very hospitable and good natured, though, and we all got on the friendliest way. Please to imagine me in the next mortal hour incessant and boisterous efforts to the translators, and, among other things, addressing them in a neat and appropriate (French) speech. I came home quite head-bowed."

[illegible][illegible][illegible]











## The People.

OFFICES: 111, FLEET STREET, STRAND, W.C.

"IN THE MIDDLE ORDER OF RANKS ARE GENERALLY TO BE FOUND ALL THE ARTS, VICES, AND VIRTUES OF SOCIETY. THIS ORDER ALONE IS KNOWN TO BE THE TRUE PRESERVER OF FREEDOM, AND MAY BE CALLED 'THE PEOPLE.'"—Fleur de Velle, chap. 13.

## THE DOCKERS' CONGRESS.

Mr. TOM MANX's presidential address to the delegates present at the Dockers' Congress seems to have contained some very fair sample of the sort of reasoning to which the leaders of the new unionism are wont to treat their followers. Among other precepts which the president of the congress recommended to the consideration of working men anxious to improve the position of labour was this—"that trade unionists should purchase only trade-union-made goods." At first sight, no doubt, the suggestion is very taking. The solidarity of labour is to be affirmed and confirmed by the workers in one department of industry only buying goods produced by their fellow unionists in other branches. But the conditions of purchase all the world over include the payment of the price of the thing bought. Now, trade unionism, as we all know, aims at raising the wages of labour, and thereby it raises prices at the same time. Trade-union-made goods are bound to be more expensive than others. It appears, then, that Mr. MANX is actually advising the British workman to buy in the dearest market. We wonder if he, Mr. MANX, really imagines that such advice is likely to be taken. If he does (which we venture to doubt very considerably) Mr. MANX must be considerably less wide-awake than he has hitherto been supposed to be. As to the British workman—not to mention his wife, who would have a voice, and a loud one, in this matter—he is not such a perfect fool as the president of the Dockers' Congress seems to imagine. If he were he would, perhaps, fail to detect the folly of another suggestion of Mr. MANX's. That was to the effect that in "season trades," where the workman is necessarily out of work for months together, the burden of maintaining him at such times should be thrown "upon the whole community." How! "It is not practical," says Mr. MANX, "to give these workers a wage that should keep them while they are not at work; but there should be municipal workshops, under Government legislation, to which people out of work could go." But could all the municipal workshops in the world take the British workman, or find work for a single bricklayer during a frost like that of last winter? Acts of Parliament can do a great deal no doubt, but they cannot control the forces of nature, as simple Mr. TOM MANX seems to suppose.

## THE MANCHESTER ELECTION.

North-east Manchester is the Parliamentary division now called upon, by the appointment of Sir JAMES FERGUSON to the Postmaster-generalship, to pronounce its opinion upon the respective merits of Government and Opposition. Sir JAMES FERGUSON himself, who seems to allude to the not very chivalrous conduct of the Gladstonites in contesting the seat in the present circumstances, has invited the electors to use this occasion to express their recognition of the good services rendered to the country by her Majesty's Government, with special reference to the administration of Irish affairs. We hope that Sir JAMES's appeal will not be made in vain. Neither is there the slightest reason why it should be made in vain if the Unionist electors do their duty. But that duty must be done, and done thoroughly if we are to hold the seat. For north-east Manchester, strange to say, after returning Sir JAMES FERGUSON by 1,448 in 1886, only gave him a majority of 327 in 1890. That result was due to two causes. In the first place the Irish vote in that constituency is larger than in any other in England with it, it is said, two exceptions. That vote was, of course, transferred from the Conservative to the Liberal candidate in 1886, when Mr. GLADSTONE found salvation in apostasy from his old principles. Secondly, while Sir JAMES FERGUSON lost a large number of votes by the Irish desertion, he did not succeed in recovering the lost ground by means of such an amount of defection from the Liberal ranks as he might reasonably have expected. Liberal Unionism, in fact, did not make the same show in North-east Manchester as it did in many other constituencies, so that this division was one of the few in which Mr. GLADSTONE lost nothing, but rather gained by his great apostasy. If, however, the Liberal Unionists, who are said to be only unite heartily with their Conservative allies, Mr. C. P. SCOTT should have absolutely no chance of unseating Sir JAMES FERGUSON, who ought, in that event, to obtain a majority considerably larger than that of '86, even though it may not equal the notable achievement of '85.

## PENSIONERS AND POLICEMEN.

A correspondent, whose letter will be found in another column, draws attention to a grievance which certainly seems to us to be well founded and considerable. As an Army pensioner our correspondent has recently received from the authorities a form which he is directed to fill in with replies to certain questions. This form he is further required to submit to a policeman, not below the rank of sergeant, in order to obtain his signature to it. Our

correspondent not only complains that the questions asked in this document are unnecessary, inasmuch as the answers are already in the possession of the authorities, but he is particularly indignant at being required to obtain the signature of a policeman as a guarantee of the correctness of the answers given. We feel bound to say that we are entirely in sympathy with him. "Are we," he asks, "to be placed under police supervision?" The mere mention of that term is sufficient to show the objectionable character of the regulation of which our correspondent complains. It cannot be pleasant for Army pensioners who have won an honourable uniform to be subjected to a perfectly unnecessary regulation, which is like nothing in our administrative system except the way of dealing with convicted criminals released on ticket-of-leave. In the case of the released convict, police supervision is entirely necessary and proper, but in the case of our Army pensioners there is no plea of necessity to recommend it. Assuming that the questions asked in the Government form really required to be answered, and the answers to be signed by a responsible person besides the pensioner himself, the signature of a clergyman, officer of the Army or Navy, justice of the peace, or other person of position might well be substituted for that of a sergeant of police. We have the greatest respect and sympathy for the force, within its proper sphere of action, but the present move looks too much like the continental methods of police surveillance to find much favour in English eyes.

## THE EXTRAORDINARY CHARGE AGAINST A LADY.

At the County of London Sessions Eliza Lentner, a well-dressed elderly lady, who surrendered to her bail, was indicted for stealing a silver umbrella valued at 11s. 11d., the goods of Mrs. Herbert Bodkin, Mr. George Bodkin and Mr. W. H. Layton, prisoner; the prisoner was defended by Mr. Gill and Mr. Bodkin. It appeared that at about 2 o'clock on the afternoon of Saturday, the 12th inst., the prisoner who was accompanied by her sister, a German lady, and her niece, Mrs. Edelstein, entered the premises of a shop in the Kensington Road, and took a seat near a box containing a number of umbrellas with blue covers upon them, while the other two ladies purchased a Garibaldi jacket or blouse that was exhibited in the window. Mrs. Edelstein, stated that on her return she observed the umbrella which was the subject of the charge in the Kensington Road, together with that lady's own umbrella. The Garibaldi was paid for, and the three ladies were leaving the shop when Miss Bodkin called the attention of the manager to the fact that the umbrella she had seen in Mrs. Lentner's hands was missing, and she intimated her suspicion that the prisoner was making away with it. A lady in a lace mantle which she carried over her arm. The manager thereupon detained Mrs. Lentner, and on touching the lace mantle, the umbrella dropped out from between its folds, and promised never to go to the shop again. She was, however, given into custody, and the station where she was taken had taken it up to examine it with a view to purchasing it, but had replaced it upon the box. In taking up her lace mantle, the hooked handle of the umbrella had caught in it, and she had thus unintentionally and unwittingly appropriated it. This defence was set up by Mr. Gill at the trial, and a number of witnesses were called to testify to the high character of the prisoner. It was also alleged in the defence that no blue cover, which it was alleged was on the umbrella, was found on the prisoner or in the shop. The manager stated that he had seen a ticket which should have been attached to the umbrella upon the floor, and he looked at it, but had thrown it down again. The charge was then put to the jury on the case to the jury, intimated his opinion that there was a good deal of doubt as to the proof of the intention to steal the umbrella, which doubt was strengthened by the high character of the prisoner had received. He also considered that there was much force in the argument that a very light umbrella (and the accused judge had called it a lace mantle) might have been easily carried off by accident in the folds of a mantle and innocently taken away. The jury after a brief deliberation found the prisoner not guilty. There were some attempts at applause which were suppressed, and the prisoner left the court with her friends.

## FIGHT AT A WEDDING.

Paris, has just been the scene of a free fight. When a wedding party was indulging in the usual breakfast repast, the driver of the bride's carriage started a quarrel, and subsequently a fight with a soldier. Two other warriors joined in the fray, and seeing this the men of the marriage feast contributed their share. This was not all. Some women employed in the neighbourhood, having been called to the wedding, were set upon by the bride, the bridesmaid, and both the mothers-in-law, and for the space of ten minutes the air was thick with false hair, smashed bonnets, scraps of white satin, and orange blossoms. Eventually the combatants were conducted to the police station, and released after promising to keep the peace for the rest of the day.

## A TROUBLESOME GIRL.

At the London County Sessions, on Thursday, Ada Lord, a girl 15 years of age, on the 8th of September, 1891, was charged with stealing the sum of 10s. 6d. from her mistress, Mrs. Emily Eyles. Miss Headlam now attended, and stated that the girl had been on more than one occasion sent to a reformatory school, and to a home, but she had refused to remain in these. If she was handed over to her, it would be difficult to know what to do with her. Mr. Underhill remarked that the case was a very painful one, as the girl appeared to be almost incorrigible. He thought, perhaps, a little prison discipline would do her good. Miss Headlam said she would be glad to take charge of the girl after her liberation from prison, and she would do so now, but the danger was that, if she took the girl into her home again, she might contaminate the other girls, who, it was hoped, would, after a certain amount of training, lead honest lives. In reply to Mr. Underhill, Miss Headlam said there were cases in which girls benefited by a short term of imprisonment; but she was willing to take the girl under her charge if the court wished. Mr. Underhill sentenced the prisoner to two months' hard labour.

## At the Halesworth Petty Sessions.

Alfred Reynolds, gentleman, of Northfield, Halesworth, was fined 41s. including costs, for trespassing in pursuit of game at Covehithe, on the Benares Hall estates. Mark T'win is making a tour upon French rivers in a canoe, and has arrived at Lyons from Paris. He is in excellent health, and is accompanied by a cuisinier, a servant, and a pilot.

## GERMAN EXHIBITION.

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## INQUEST AND VERDICT.

"A Student of Crime" writes to the Times:—Dr. Alfred Carpenter addresses you as a scientific champion of the cause of total abstinence, and makes a statement by way of evidence in its favour which has the appearance of being statistical. I am not, however, I venture to think he has no right whatever to make. He says that he "visited some of the prisons and convict establishments in the country, and found that nine-tenths of those who were sent there declared they were there in consequence of being addicted to drink." This is a statement of a most curious kind. I do not believe that he has been present at his visit, but I am quite sure that he was not allowed to go round questioning prisoners on this or any other subject. Probably he would say that he was told so by some person connected with the prisons, and if this is so he cannot give us his authority instead of making him a witness of what he says. I do not believe there is the smallest foundation for his statement. Crime in this connection consists in the breach of the laws for the protection of person or property, and by far the largest number of crimes are committed by persons who are sober. To acquire the habit of drinking in which degree is no doubt sometimes included, but who are unwilling to labour hard enough to acquire them legitimately. Drink is, therefore, in general a no greater cause of crime than other means of enjoyment, such as smoking and other pleasures which are equally common and more agreeable. If a man would not put down to drink which are the direct outcome of it, such as "drunkenness" or personal violence committed when under the influence of drink; but these, of course, constitute a very much smaller proportion of the crimes than those which would not have served Dr. Carpenter's purpose. — all



**London, Brighton, Newington**

**Marlborough-street.**  
A DUTMAN CHARGED WITH THEFT.—Henry Lewsey, 24, a dutman, living in Bader street, Harrow-road, was charged with stealing five music plates, worth 25s., from the premises of Messrs. Enoch and Co., music publishers, of Great Marlborough-street.—It was alleged that for some time past plates from which music is printed, had been disappearing from Messrs. Enoch and Co., and that, at a recent meeting, it was determined that a watch should be kept upon the dutmen when they made their weekly call. At a quarter to eight that morning the prisoner came for the dust and went alone into the

**Marylebone.**  
DARING ROBERT—Thomas Watson, 19, respectively dressed young man, described as a carpenter, living at 2, Georgina street, Camden Town, was charged with Rhoda Gillett, living at 100, Canfield Gardens, West Hamstead, a purse containing about £12.—It appeared that on Tuesday afternoon the prosecutor was walking along the Fairfax-road with her daughter, when the prisoner came up behind her and

for boarding and lodging her. On the 3rd inst. witness went to 14, Clarendon street, Paddington and saw a Mrs. Davies. While there the defendant called and Mrs. Davies in her presence, said defendant's father had died a pauper in Paddington Workhouse. Mrs. Davies ordered defendant out of her house, at the same time describing her as a "walking fraud." Defendant left her house suddenly and hurriedly for her statements witness would not have supplied her with board and lodging.—Mr. Deakin, who prosecuted, said it would be

**INQUESTS.**  
**DANGEROUS PLAY.**—Mr. Baxter held an in-  
quiry respecting the death of Samuel William  
Bissett, 16, an engineer's apprentice, lately  
employed at Messrs. Samuda and Co., of  
Poplar, and living at Abergeldie-street, Brom-

**DRINK AND DEATH.**—**SIR** WYATT held a post-mortem inquest on the body of Mary Ann Sheldon at 3, St. George's-street, on Monday afternoon. She was 39, the wife of a surgical instrument maker, living at Kinglake-street, Walworth. The husband said that deceased had been drinking heavily for some years past, and was subjected to fainting fits. She arrived home at 11 o'clock on Monday night, but getting no answer to her knock, she went to the door, looked through the window, and then saw his wife lying on the parlour floor. He took no notice of her, but went upstairs to see if the bed was made. Upon seeing back to the parlour he

**GAS EXPLOSION AT KILBURN.**  
On the 19th inst. a terrific explosion of gas took place at the residence of Mr. James Smith, 17, Buckley-road, Kilburn. Mrs. Smith went into the kitchen to light the gas and the explosion immediately followed. The windows of the house were blown out, and the ceilings collapsed down upon it, causing much damage caused to the furniture. Mrs. Smith was thrown violently to the ground, and was badly burnt.

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 (Signed) H. SAMUEL, Manchester.

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